

**MINUTES OF THE
HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2005**

The regular session of the Auburn City Historical Design Review Commission was called to order on January 4, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. by Chrm. Smith in the Council Chambers, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, California.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Briggs, Elder, McCord, Powers, S. White, W. White, Merz, Chrm. Smith

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Will Wong, Community Development Director; Reg Murray, Associate Planner; Janet Ferro, Administrative Assistant

ITEM I: CALL TO ORDER

ITEM II: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEM III: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

ITEM IV: PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM V: PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS – HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW

- A. Historic Design Review – 1650 Lincoln Way (Valero Gas Station) – File HDR 04-18.** The applicant requests Historic Design Review approval of sign and building re-imaging for the Valero gas station at 1650 Lincoln Way in the Old Town Historic District. *THIS ITEM WAS CONTINUED FROM THE DECEMBER 21, 2004 HDRC MEETING.*

Reg Murray gave the staff report. The Commission previously reviewed this item and expressed concern about the “boldness” of the teal color proposed. The applicant was asked to return with a new proposal that either mutes the boldness of the teal color or changed the colors on the gas station canopy fascia. The applicant has elected to change the colors on the canopy fascia and he described the new proposal.

Comm. W. White asked why the applicant has already painted and installed gas pumps and signs that were not yet been approved by the Commission.

Planner Murray stated that the signs on the building are temporary and the applicant has been apprised of the fact that the gas pumps were painted and installed without approval.

The public hearing was opened.

Elizabeth Schmidt, representing Sign Development and Valero, had pictures and color samples of the new proposal and described how they had changed the original plan and colors, removing most of the Valero teal.

The public hearing was closed.

Director Wong added that if the Commission approval changed anything that had already been installed, they would have to take it down.

Comm. W. White stated that he was surprised and disappointed in the new proposal, he did not see any change in the teal color, felt this submittal was not any more in keeping with the Old Town area than the previous submittal, and he would not be able to approve this application. He added that the white retaining wall and building siding was not acceptable either and he suggested that they keep trying and come back once again with a better proposal. He noted that the sign and the Valero colors would be acceptable because it is their trademark, but he found that the remainder of the building was not in keeping with Old Town Auburn, the Historical Design Guidelines were not followed with the lettering, and the white retaining wall and the batten-board facing on the building were also not acceptable.

There was discussion of the proposal.

Comm. Merz stated that the building appeared to be bright white and not gray and the teal seemed to him to have been more muted on the first proposal. He would like to hear how the other Commissioners feel.

Comm. Briggs stated that she felt the proposal submitted tonight was acceptable.

Director Wong pointed out that the existing gas station was proposing only to change their colors and not to redo the building façade and he felt it was not really in the Commission's purview to require that the applicant change the siding of the building.

Comm. W. White stated that he was asked his opinion and he had been thinking of trade-offs. Regarding the colors, they need to be more muted. He feels this station is a gateway to the community and he feels strongly that the colors proposed should be toned down.

Chrm. Smith referred to what was requested of the applicant, that the colors proposed were too bold and that the applicant had been given two options: Subdue the boldness of the Valero teal, or change the teal on the gas station canopy fascia to light gray. He asked staff if either of these had been done and Murray replied that the colors did not appear to have been changed, but the teal on the canopy fascia had been changed.

Comm. Elder agreed with Comm. W. White that the white retaining wall should be more subdued and also felt that the applicant should come back with a better proposal.

Comm. Powers stated that all gas stations have bright colors, the canopy is now more gray than teal and far more subdued, noting that there were many other gas stations had much worse colors. She felt the applicant had already made a sincere effort to comply.

Comm. W. White **MOVED** to deny the applicant's request to find it Categorically Exempt from CEQA and to deny the request as stated in the report.

Comm. Elder **SECONDED**.

Comm. McCord said she would be in favor of postponing the request but would not vote to deny.

Comm. Powers agreed that she would agree to postpone.

Comm. S. White also would vote to postpone but not to deny.

Comm. Briggs also agreed.

The vote on the motion to deny:

AYES:	Elder, W. White
NOES:	McCord, Merz, Powers, S. White, Briggs, Chrm. Smith
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

The motion was not approved.

Comm. McCord **MOVED** that the item be continued to the meeting of January 18, 2005.

Comm. Merz **SECONDED**.

AYES:	McCord, Merz, Powers, S. White, Briggs, Elder, W. White, Chrm. Smith
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

The motion was approved.

The Chairman announced the 10-day appeal period.

ITEM VI:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

A. City Council Meetings.

Director Wong reported on recent City Council meetings.

B. Future Historic Design Review Commission Meetings

Director Wong discussed future meetings.

C. Reports

None.

ITEM VII: HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

**ITEM VIII: FUTURE HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION
AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

ITEM IX: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Elaine Ferro, Administrative Assistant